

REMARKS

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for consideration of the subject patent application. This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed January 31, 2005. Claims 4-7 and 11-14 were indicated at allowable. Claims 1-3, 8-10 and 15-17 were rejected. The claims and specification have been amended to address the concerns raised by the Examiner.

Claims 1, 3, 5-11, 13, 14, and 18-22 remain in the application. Claims 1-17 were originally presented. Claims 2, 4, 12, and 15-17 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. Claims 3 and 7 have been amended to be consistent with the amendments to claim 1, not for any reason related to patentability and without narrowing the scope thereof. New claims 18-22 have been added. Support for new claims 18-22 is found in the original claims 1-7.

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4-7 and 11-14, if rewritten in independent form, is acknowledged with appreciation. Therefore, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of allowable claim 4, and intervening claim 2. Therefore, independent claim 1 is allowable.

In addition, independent claim 8 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of allowable claim 12.

Furthermore, new independent claim 18 has been added which is similar to original claim 1 with the allowable subject matter of allowable claim 7. New claims 19-22 are allowable for at least their dependence on allowable independent claim 18 and claims 19-22 correspond to original claims 2, 3, 5, and 6.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Independent claims 1, 8, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hoeldtke (U.S. Patent No. 2,738,815).

As stated above, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of allowable claim 4. Independent claim 8 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of allowable claim 12. Claim 15 has been canceled. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 8 are allowable, and urges the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

Claims 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hoeldtke (U.S. Patent No. 2,738,815) and further in view of Santos et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,073,307).

Dependant claims 3, 9, and 10 are allowable for at least there dependence on allowable independent claim 1 or 8. Claims 2, 16, and 17 have been cancelled. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3, 9, and 10 are allowable, and urges the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 because neither Hoeldtke nor Santos et al. teach an adjustable pommel or spacers that lengthen a hand grip.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1, 3, 5-11, 13, 14 and 18-22 are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejections and objections be withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed and passed to issue. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to call Garron M. Hobson at (801) 566-6633 so that such matters may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Five claims were added (claims 18-22), including one independent claim (claim 18), while six claims were canceled (claims 2, 4, 12, and 15-17), including one independent claim (claim 15). Therefore, no additional fee is due.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or to credit any overpayment in connection with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 20-0100.

DATED this 29th day of April, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



Garron M. Hobson
Registration No. 41,073

THORPE NORTH & WESTERN, LLP
Customer No. 20,551
P.O. Box 1219
Sandy, Utah 84091-1219
Telephone: (801) 566-6633